Spectrum for new service providers

1802. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made an estimate with regard to the market value of 4.4Mhz-6.2Mhz GSM spectrum that is proposed to be given to new service providers on first come first serve basis at a price of Rs. 1651.57 crore; and

(b) if not, the basis on which this spectrum is proposed to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Initial spectrum is allotted to the service providers in accordance with the relevant provisions of their respective Service License Agreements. There are no upfront charges for spectrum and spectrum usage charges only are levied (on revenue share basis). The amount of Rs. 1651.57 crore is charged as one time entry fee for the telecom service license for all service areas in the country.

Licenses to new service providers

1803. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the process at present being followed for awarding licenses to new service providers on first come first serve basis; and

(b) when was this policy formed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The process at present being followed for awarding new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences, on first come first serve basis, is as per the UAS Licence guidelines dated 14.12.2005.

Spectrum for third generation

1804. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to auction the spectrum for third generation (3G) mobile phone service;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines in this regard;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has forwarded its recommendation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced the guidelines for 3G services which, among others, provide that 3G licences would be granted through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction, to ensure transparency in the selection process and given as Statement. [Refer to statement appended to the answer to USQ 1797 Part (a) to (d)]. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had also recommended, among others, the auction for 3G spectrum.